

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY P:JJSISCO:BDF

APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO

EUR/NE - MISS PINKNEY

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 023710

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR IRVING FROM SISCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, NATO, MARR

SUBJECT: UK/ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE

1. I SAW KROYER LAST NIGHT, PURSUANT TO YOUR RECOMMENDATION, AND SAID THAT WHILE WE ARE NOT MAKING ANY VALUE JUDGMENTS OR TRYING TO GET IN THE MIDDLE OF MATTERS, I DID WANT TO EXPRESS VIEW THAT THE UK HAD COME A LONG WAY IN THEIR PROPOSALS. I FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT THEREFORE THAT MY GOOD FRIEND, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, BEAR IN MIND THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP MATTERS CALM TO AVOID ANY RASH ACTION WHICH MIGHT BEGIN TO ERODE THE KIND OF SUPPORT ICELAND HAS HAD HERETOFORE FROM A NUMBER OF ITS FRIENDS. KROYER SAID HE WOULD BE SURE TO CONVEY THIS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THAT HE APPRECIATED VERY MUCH THIS OBSERVATION FOR HE KNEW THAT THE U.S. THROUGHOUT HAS TRIED TO BE VERY HELPFUL.

2. I ALSO SAW RAMSBOTHAM LAST NIGHT AND REINFORCED DICK

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VINE'S APPROACH EARLIER IN THE DAY WITH THE UK POLCONS. I

SAID TO RAMSBOTHAM THAT I KNEW THAT THE UK HAD COME A LONG WAY BUT I DID WANT TO ADD THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE UK TO AVOID ANY ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT EXACERBATE THE SITUATION, SINCE I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN ICELAND WAS INCREASINGLY IN JEOPARDY AND THAT IF THE

OPPOSITION IS ABLE TO UPSET THE GOVERNMENT, THIS WOULD BODE BADLY FOR A FUTURE SOLUTION AS WELL AS MAINTAINING ICELAND'S ROLE IN NATO. RAMSBOTHAM UNDERTOOK TO REPORT THIS TO LONDON.

3. ONE OTHER POINT. IN YOUR PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER TODAY YOU OUGHT TO TRY TO GET ACROSS THAT WE DO NOT WELCOME WHAT APPEARS TO US TO BE ATTEMPTS TO HOLD U.S., PARTICULARLY THE BASE, HOSTAGE FOR DEVELOPMENTS THAT ARE OCCURRING IN THE SO-CALLED "COD WAR". WE UNDERSTAND THE DELICATE POLITICAL PROCESS IN ICELAND BUT AGUSTSSON HAS TO UNDERSTAND THAT NATO AND OUR BASE ARE AS MUCH IN THE INTEREST OF ICELAND AS THEY ARE OF THE U.S. HE ALSO HAS TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE CANNOT ACCEPT A SITUATION WHERE THE BASE THREAT IS PULLED OUT IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER TO SUIT ICELAND'S NEEDS IN THE EVOLVING SITUATION. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT TO STAND FIRM ON THIS MATTER AND THAT TO THE DEGREE TO WHICH IT REFLECTS HESITANCY, IT TENDS TO EMBOLDEN THE OPPOSITION RATHER THAN TO DISCOURAGE IT.

4. JUST AS WE WERE ABOUT TO TRANSMIT THIS, I RECEIVED A CALL FROM AMB. KROYER WHO INFORMED ME THAT THE FONMIN AT THIS MORNING'S CABINET MEETING HAD MENTIONED MY CONVERSATION WITH KROYER LAST NIGHT AND THE FONMIN NOW WAS CURIOUS TO KNOW WHETHER THE USG HAD ANYTHING SPECIFIC IN MIND. I REITERATED MY REMARKS OF LAST NIGHT, THAT THE USG WAS SIMPLY EXPRESSING A GENERAL CONCERN THAT BOTH SIDES NOT ALLOW THIS TO GET OUT OF HAND AND THAT I HAD NOTHING SPECIFIC IN MIND. IN ANSWER TO KROYER'S QUESTION, I SAID THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH HAD BEEN ALONG MUCH THE SAME GENERAL LINES AND THIS WAS THE USG SIMPLY AS A CLOSE FRIEND OF EACH TRYING TO ENCOURAGE OUR

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TWO ALLIES TO ACT WITH RESTRAINT IN WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY A DELICATE SITUATION. KISSINGER

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